

Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Update | 4th Quarter 2022

Overdose Response Program - Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson County

The objective of this report is to provide education and increase awareness in Davidson County about the local drug overdose epidemic.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Notable Trends

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

There were 198 suspected drug overdose deaths that occurred in the county during fourth quarter 2022 (168 completed and 30 pending).

Fentanyl: Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, was reported as detected in approximately seventy-nine percent of overdose-related toxicology reports in fourth quarter 2022. This appears to have been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose injuries and deaths in Davidson County. Other frequently detected substances among suspected overdose deaths in 2022 were methamphetamine and cocaine.

Demographics: Males accounted for the largest percentage of suspected drug overdose deaths at seventy-one percent during fourth quarter 2022. In regard to age group, the largest percentage of deaths have occurred among 35-44 year olds (28%).

Suspected Drug Overdose-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits

Syndromic surveillance (definition on page 3) captured 550 suspected drug overdose-related ED visits during fourth quarter 2022. This represents a 5% decrease when compared to fourth quarter 2021.

Drug/Substance Category: The top three drug/substance categories reported for overdose-related ED visits during fourth quarter 2022 were non-heroin opioids (71%), heroin (24%), and stimulants (5%). There appears to be a continued shift away from heroin and towards synthetic opioids.

Demographics: During fourth quarter 2022, approximately 7 of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Davidson County were among males, and 30% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among individuals 25-34 years old.

Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring Response by Nashville Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (NFD-EMS)

There were 1,395 suspected drug overdoses requiring NFD-EMS response during fourth quarter 2022, representing a 0.65% increase compared to fourth quarter 2021.

Naloxone Administration: During fourth quarter 2022, 41% of drug overdose incidents to which NFD-EMS responded required multiple administrations of naloxone; during 4th quarter 2021, 43% of such incidents required multiple administrations of naloxone.

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter, 2016-2022 - Davidson County, TN



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Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

2022 | October 1-December 31

Notable Trends

Overdose Deaths: During the fourth quarter of 2022, there were 198 suspected drug overdose deaths (168 completed and 30 pending) that occurred in the county.

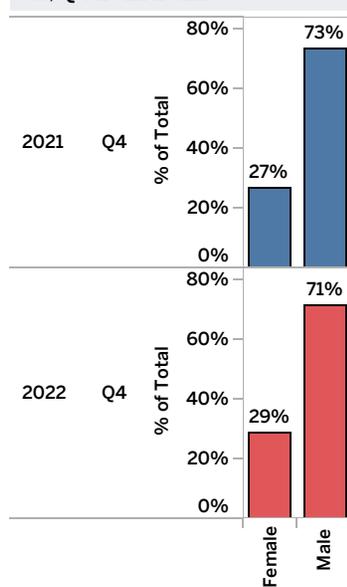
Fentanyl: Approximately 79% percent of overdose-related toxicology reports in fourth quarter 2022 have detected fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain reliever that has been the main driver in the increased number of drug overdose deaths in Davidson County.

Polysubstance Epidemic: The most frequently detected substances in fourth quarter 2022 were fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine.

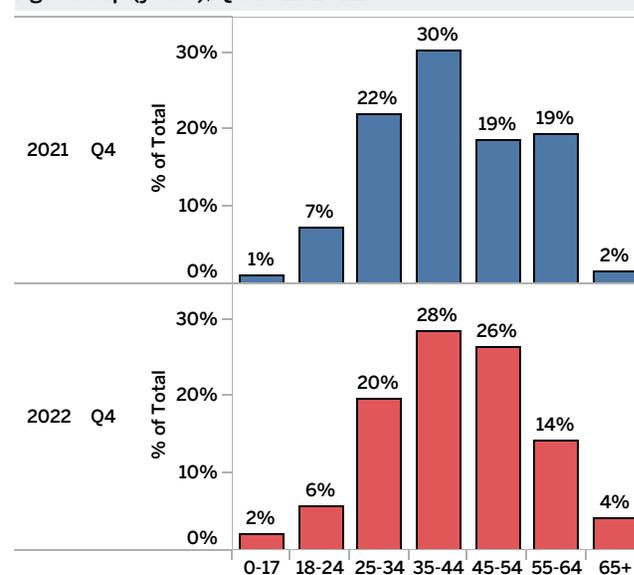
Emerging Substances: Emerging substances include fluorofentanyl and xylazine. Fluorofentanyl was first detected in Davidson County in the 3rd quarter of 2020. Xylazine has been increasingly detected among suspected overdose deaths during the last 2 years.

Demographics: Seventy-one percent of suspected drug overdose deaths in fourth quarter 2022 were among males while the majority of deaths occurred among 35-44 year olds (28%) and white individuals (65%).

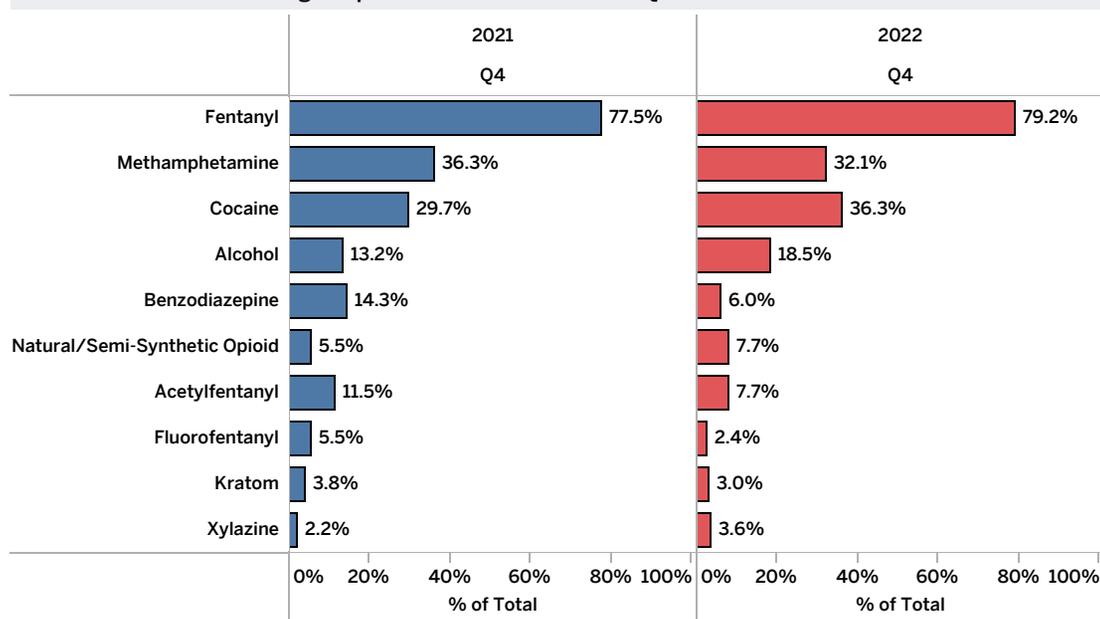
Sex, Q4 2021-2022



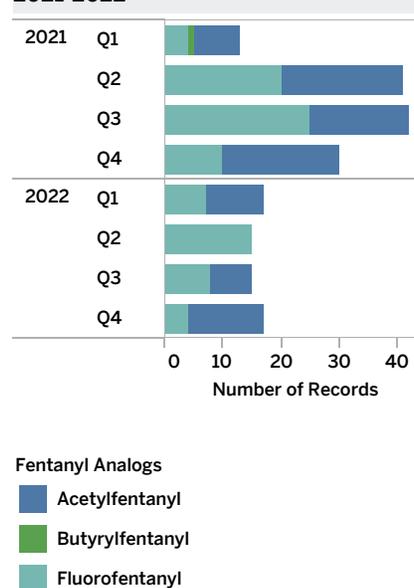
Age Group (years), Q4 2021-2022



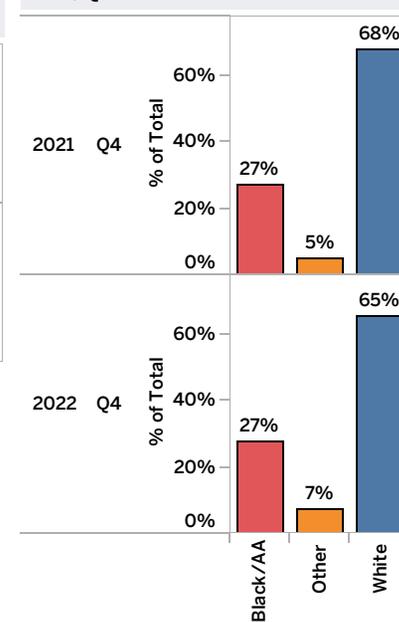
Substances Detected among Suspected Overdose Deaths in Quarter 4 of 2021 and 2022



Fentanyl Analog Detection by Quarter, 2021-2022



Race, Q4 2021-2022



Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Update | 4th Quarter 2022

Overdose Response Program - Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson County

Suspected Drug Overdose-Related ED Visits

2022 | October 1-December 31

Notable Trends

Overdose-related ED Visits: During fourth quarter 2022, there were 550 suspected drug overdose-related ED visits captured by syndromic surveillance (definition on page 3), representing a 5% decrease when compared to fourth quarter 2021.

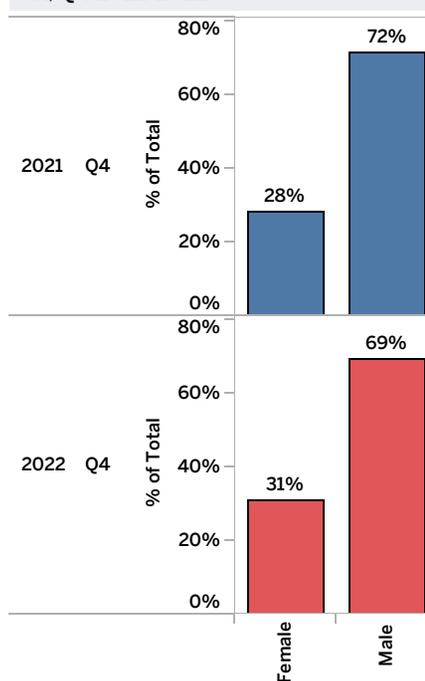
Drug/Substance Category: Seventy-one percent of overdose-related ED visits in fourth quarter 2022 involved non-heroin opioids followed by heroin (24%) and stimulants (5%). This finding indicates a continued shift away from heroin and towards synthetic opioids.

Demographics: Approximately 7 out of 10 drug overdose-related ED visits in Davidson County during fourth quarter 2022 were among males. By age group, 30% of drug overdose-related ED visits occurred among individuals 25-34 years old. Among race groups, the majority of death were among White individuals at 59% followed by Black individuals 28%.

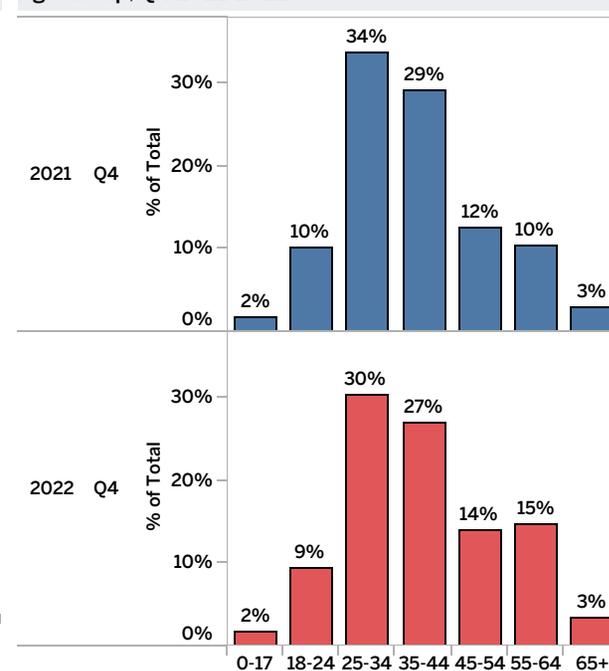
What is Syndromic Surveillance?

Data collected in syndromic surveillance consists of de-identified information from various health care facilities regarding chief complaints, diagnosis codes, and patient characteristics. These data are reported either to state and local health departments or Health Information Exchanges, which then contribute data to the national syndromic surveillance platform for assistance in identifying early trends in diseases and conditions.

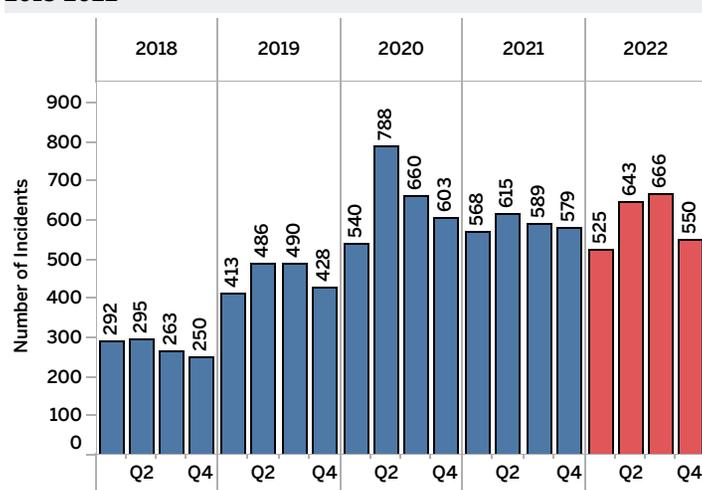
Sex, Q4 2021-2022



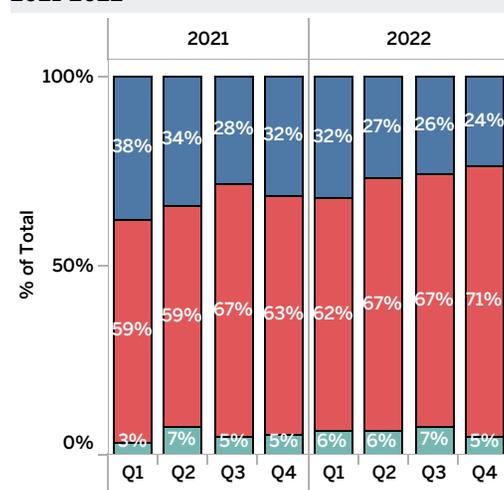
Age Group, Q4 2021-2022



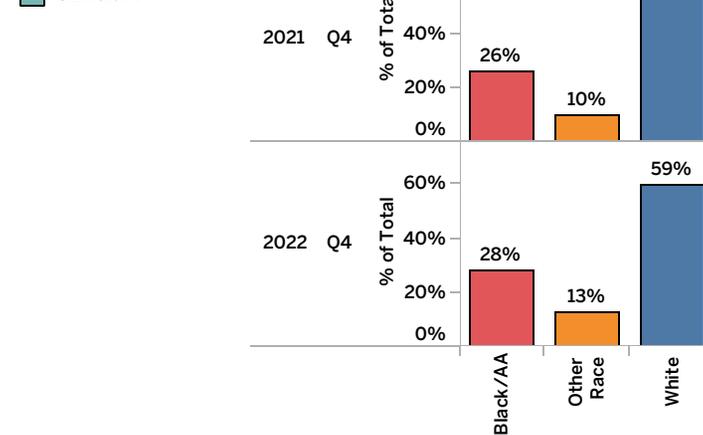
Suspected Drug Overdose-Related ED Visits by Quarter - 2018-2022



Drug/Substance Category by Quarter, 2021-2022



Race, Q4 2021-2022



Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Update | 4th Quarter 2022

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Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

2022 | October 1 -December 31

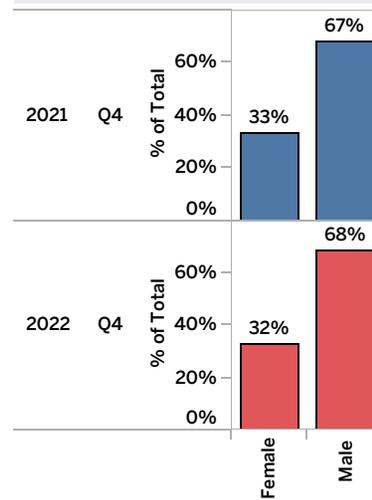
Notable Trends

Suspected Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response: During the fourth quarter of 2022, there were 1,395 suspected drug overdoses requiring NFD-EMS response, representing a 0.65% increase compared to 2021 where 1,386 incidents were reported during the fourth quarter.

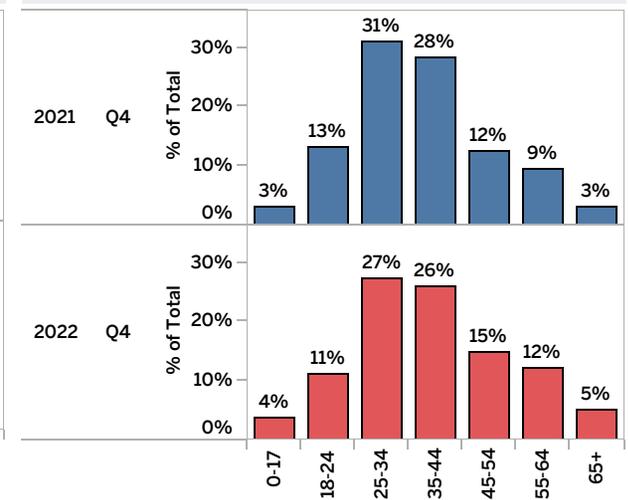
Naloxone Administration: During fourth quarter 2022, 41% of drug overdose incidents to which NFD-EMS responded required multiple administrations of naloxone; during 4th quarter 2021, 43% of such incidents required multiple administrations of naloxone.

Demographics: Approximately two-thirds of suspected drug overdoses in Davidson County were among males during fourth quarter 2022. This trend has remained consistent over the last several years. By age group, slightly less than one-third of all suspected drug overdoses occurred among individuals 25-34 years old.

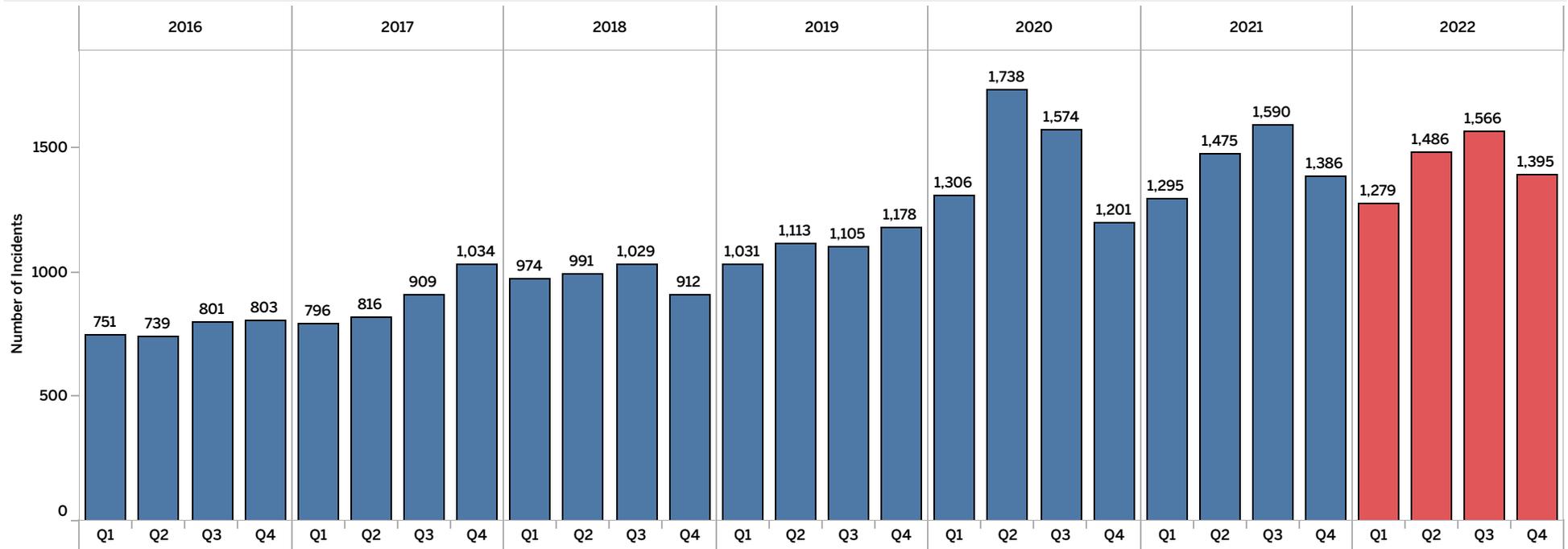
Sex, Q4 2021-2022



Age Group (years), Q4 2021-2022



Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response by Quarter - 2016-2022



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Resources for the Public

Community Overdose Response Team

For those seeking treatment for drug addiction, the Community Overdose Response Team (CORT) can help. CORT is a free and confidential resource to help find drug and alcohol treatment for individuals who are at risk of an overdose. The service is offered free of charge regardless of health insurance status. The team works with an individual to determine the appropriate level of care (e.g., detox, residential, or outpatient treatment, etc.).

To make a referral or learn more about this resource for our community, call CORT at 615-687-1701.

Tennessee REDLINE

The purpose of the Tennessee REDLINE is to provide accurate, up-to-date alcohol, drug, problem gambling, and other addiction information and referrals to all citizens of Tennessee at their request even if you do not have health insurance.

- Phone: 1.800.889.9789 (toll free 24 hours/7 days)
- Website: <https://www.tn.gov/opioids/treatment/how-to-get-help.html>

Additional Information

Naloxone Training

- STARS Nashville, Call 615-393-6980 or visit <https://starsnashville.org/rops/>.
- Red Cross <https://www.redcross.org/>

Overdose Signs

- Person is not responsive
- Fingertips or lips turn blue or grey
- Breathing is slow, shallow, or has stopped
- Person is gurgling or making snoring noises

What can you do if you see an opioid overdose?

- Call 911
- If you have naloxone, give the person naloxone and perform rescue breathing
- If no response after 2-3 minutes, give a second dose of naloxone
- Do not leave the person alone (help will arrive)
- If the person starts to breathe or becomes more alert, lay the person in the recovery position: put the person slightly on the left side so that their body is supported by a bent knee with their face turned to the side and bottom arm reaching out to stabilize the position

SPIKE Auto Text Program

Metro Public Health Department is collaborating with Partnership to End Addiction to implement the SPIKE Auto Text Program in Davidson County. The program will alert you when spikes in drug overdoses occur locally.

Text SPIKE to 855-9-OD-KNOW (855-963-5669) and follow the steps to get messages on your phone when overdose spikes occur. This service is FREE. You can learn more at <https://drugfree.org/spike/>.

Overdose Response Program – Drug Overdose Information

- Website: <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health/drug-overdose-information>
- Contains various resources in English, Spanish, and Arabic.



Partnership to End Addiction is working with organizations in your community to alert you when spikes in drug overdoses occur locally. This knowledge can help you take action to engage and protect your loved ones struggling with addiction.

Why it matters: Spike alerts can prompt families and community members to:

- 1 Have discussions about seeking treatment and/or using substances more safely
- 2 Protect people you care about by getting naloxone and learning how to use it
- 3 Talk to friends or loved ones who are not using substances about the risks of use
- 4 Advocate for and support efforts in your community to prevent overdoses

Text SPIKE to
855-9-OD-KNOW
(855-963-5669)

and follow the steps to
get messages on your
phone when overdose
spikes occur.

How it works: Health and law enforcement officials can release a "spike alert" to the media in response to a pattern of drug overdoses within a community. Partnership to End Addiction's SPIKE Alerts by Text program informs you when these alerts are issued.



Learn more:
drugfree.org/spike
or scan QR code to sign up now

Partnership to End Addiction is a nonprofit working to transform how our nation addresses addiction. Learn more at drugfree.org.



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Footnotes and Supplemental Information

****If you have information on unusual overdose activity, please contact the Overdose Response Program****

Opioid.Response@nashville.gov | 615-340-8620

Technical Notes

Data for the most recent quarter, October 1 through December 31 of 2022, remain preliminary and may be adjusted in later months. Percent change where the cumulative total is less than 20 were not included due to the instability of calculations.

Suspected Fatal Drug Overdoses

- **Data represent deaths accessed from the Death Investigation and Decedent Information (DIDI) database on 1/25/2023 that are suspected to be drug overdose-related. These deaths have occurred within Davidson County, and cases are included in this total regardless of resident status.** This mortality indicator demonstrates the overall burden on first response, healthcare, and forensic science in addition to the overall magnitude of the overdose epidemic. Counts reported for this metric will likely differ from overdose death counts provided by other agencies that report deaths only among county residents.

Suspected Nonfatal Drug Overdose-related ED Visits

- Nonfatal drug overdose data were extracted from ESSENCE-TN.
- Nonfatal drug overdose ED visits were captured by syndromic surveillance (ESSENCE-TN) at the following hospitals:
 - Nashville General Hospital, Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital, Saint Thomas West Hospital, TriStar Centennial Medical Center, TriStar Skyline Medical Center, TriStar Southern Hills Medical Center, TriStar Summit Medical Center, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- ICD-10-CM diagnosis injury codes, in addition to chief complaint keyword queries, were used to capture nonfatal drug overdoses:
 - Opioid: T40.0, F11.1, F11.2, F11.9
 - Heroin: T40.1
 - Other opioid: T40.2
 - Methadone: T40.3
 - Other synthetic narcotic: T40.4
 - Cocaine: T40.5
 - Other/unspecified narcotic: T40.6
 - Amphetamine: T43.62
- Drug Category (page 3)
 - Opioids excluding Heroin: T40.0, T40.2-T40.4, T40.6, F11.1, F11.2, F11.9
 - Heroin: T40.1
 - Stimulant: T40.5, T43.62

Suspected Drug Overdoses Requiring NFD-EMS Response

- Suspected drug overdose data were provided by the Nashville Fire Department EMS Database.